The History of the Theory of Structures from Arch Analysis to Computational Mechanics by Karl-Eugen Kurrer (Verlag Ernst & Sohn Verlag für Architektur und technische Wissenschaften GmbH & Co KG 2008, ISBN 978-3-433-01838-5, 848 Seiten, Euro 119)

Usually, engineers barely care about the history of their subjects. In general this attitude is a pity since the history of engineering is rich in almost all branches. One of the most fascinating subjects concerning the history of engineering sciences is the theory of structures. In this branch the development of theories parallels the development of mathematics itself from the rise of calculus up to our modern times in which numerical analysis is heavily used in engineering practice and modeling.

Concerning the history of the theories of structures there was the one book: Karl-Eugen Kurrer's *Geschichte der Baustatik* which was published in 2002. This was (and still is) a beautiful book containing rich and interesting material and written by an expert who could master his field inside out. In a review of this book written by Tom Peters for *Technology and Culture* in 2004 the reviewer praised the book but put it in the context of mainly German contributions. This has changed now! The new book is not just an english translation of the former one but a revised version taking a broader view and including recent developments. The book has now nearly 850 pages. It contains many pictures and graphics and a beautiful layout. The publisher has endowed the book with high-quality, heavy paper and a longlasting binding which it deserves. I can only strongly recommend this monument in the history of engineering sciences. Whenever you want to learn about the subject or just want to browse through history - this is *the* book! It is certainly a must for every historically interested engineer as well as for historians of science. 'The Kurrer' will become the standard reference book and will stay in that position for many years to come.

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